

WO 01/21956

PCT/NL00/00686

- 12 -

Claims

- ~~1.~~ Windmill for generating electric current with the aid of a generator (7) which is driven by vanes (10) and is provided with a rotor (8), a stator (9) and a bearing (11) on which the vanes are also mounted, characterized in that the stator is positioned in a closed chamber (46) with at least one air seal (26; 68) between rotating parts and stationary parts of the generator.
2. Windmill according to Claim 1, characterized in that the closed chamber (46) is provided with means (51) for drying air which is present in the closed chamber.
3. Windmill according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the closed chamber (46) is provided with means (51) for feeding dried or dry air and, if appropriate, for maintaining a superatmospheric pressure in the closed chamber.
4. Windmill according to Claim 2 or 3, characterized in that switching means are provided for switching on the means (51) for drying air which is present in the closed chamber while the windmill is at a standstill.
5. Windmill according to one of Claims 1 - 4, characterized in that means are provided for keeping the stator (9) at more or less the same temperature all the way around.
6. Windmill according to one of Claims 1 - 5, characterized in that the bearing (11) is provided with seals (45) for providing an air-tight seal for the closed chamber, and the seals, if appropriate, are suitable for withstanding the superatmospheric pressure which is present in the closed chamber.
7. Windmill according to Claim 6, characterized in that the bearing is provided with a lubricant inlet and with a lubricant outlet having channels (37, 40) which are arranged in such a manner that lubricant flows out

WO 01/21956

PCT/NL00/00686

- 13 -

of the bearing when at least a desired amount of lubricant is present in the bearing.

8. Windmill according to Claim 7, characterized in that there are means (39) for monitoring the circulation of lubricant to the bearing (11) and/or for detecting a return flow of lubricant out of the bearing.

sub
A2

5

add
A3